

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00

AGRE-00 FDRE-00 IGA-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 /051 W

-----056391 121259Z /43

R 120750Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 54

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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LAGOS FOR AGATT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, GH

SUBJ: UNDP SUMMARY FOOD SITUATION REPORT

1. SUMMARY. WE CABLE HERewith TEXT OF A BRIEF USEFUL UNDP/ACCRA SUMMARY REPORT ON CURRENT FOOD SITUATION IN GHANA. THIS REPORT, GIVEN US BY GOG COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, CONTAINS THE LATEST OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON GOG FOODGRAIN IMPORTS, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO TOTAL 372,000 METRIC TONS DURING CY77. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. QUOTE. FOR COOKINGUE, UNDP, NEW YORK. RE YOUR CABLE 1541 THE FOOD SITUATION IN GHANA IS HIGHLY COMPLEX WITH GENERALIZED SHORTAGES OVER THE WHOLE COUNTRY AND ACUTE SHORTAGES IN SOME AREAS OF THE UPPER AND NORTHERN REGIONS WHILE PARTS OF THE MORE SOUTHERLY REGIONS ARE ALSO AFFECTED. 1977 CROP PROSPECTS ARE NOT GOOD AND THE DEGREE OF SHORTFALL IN 1978 SUPPLIES IS DEPENDENT ON THE RAINS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THE DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(1) THE UPPER AND NORTHERN REGIONS: FOLLOWING POOR 1976 HARVESTS THE 1977 RAINS WERE INTERRUPTED IN JUNE AND JULY

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IN A NUMBER OF AREAS DESPITE A PROMISING APRIL/MAY START AND THIS HAS RESULTED IN VARIABLE SORGHUM, EARLY MILLET AND EARLY PLANTED MAIZE AND RICE CROPS IN THESE REGIONS. THE FOOD SUPPLY SITUATION IS ALSO VARIABLE BUT GENERALLY WORSENS TOWARDS THE NORTH AND EAST WITH SOME AREAS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS CROP FAILURE AND SHORTAGES. RELIEF IS BEING PROVIDED FROM DONOR SORGHUM, SORGHUM GRITS AND WHEAT AND GOVERNMENT IMPORTED

MAIZE AND RICE. USAID AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE DONATED

SORGHUM AND SORGHUM GRITS IS REACHING THE MAIN CENTERS OF THESE TWO REGIONS BUT IS FACING HIGHLY PUBLICIZED TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS WITHIN THEM WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE DONORS ARE TRYING TO OVERCOME. THIS SITUATION IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR MONTHS AS A MINIMUM BECAUSE SUBSTANTIAL DONOR SUPPLIES ARE EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER WHILE THE GOVERNMENT REQUESTED EEC TRANSPORT DONATION IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL OCTOBER/NOVEMBER. SOME RE-SCHEDULING OF DONOR ARRIVALS APPEARS INEVITABLE. THE OUTCOME OF THE LATE MILLET AND LATE PLANTED MAIZE AND RICE CROPS IS DEPENDENT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NEW RESUMED RAINS IN THESE REGIONS. WE WILL HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE POSITION IN OCTOBER.

(2) THE WHOLE COUNTRY: THERE ARE GENERAL SHORTAGES OF MAIZE AND RICE THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF POOR 1976 HARVESTS AND THESE ARE BEING RELIEVED WITH LARGE GOVERNMENT SPONSORED COMMERCIAL IMPORTS OF WHITE MAIZE, YELLOW MAIZE AND RICE AND SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTS OF CANADIAN YELLOW STOCKFEED MAIZE UNDER A CANADIAN SOFT LOAN AGREEMENT PLUS SOME DONOR SUPPLIES. THE TOTAL COMMERCIAL AND DONOR GRAIN SUPPLIES RECEIVED SO FAR THIS YEAR INCLUDE 98,400 TONNES OF WHEAT, 19,130 TONNES OF WHITE MAIZE, 32,300 TONNES OF YELLOW MAIZE, 38,400 TONNES OF RICE AND 25,000 TONNES OF SORGHUM AND SORGHUM GRITS. FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARRIVALS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE BALANCE OF 1977 INCLUDE 67,600 TONNES OF WHEAT AND FLOUR, 15,000 TONNES OF WHITE MAIZE, 25,950 TONNES OF YELLOW MAIZE AND POSSIBLY 50,000 TONNES OF RICE. THE PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL GRAINS ARE LOWER NOW THAN IN MAY/JUNE AND ARE SEASONALLY FALLING BUT ARE STILL VERY HIGH BECAUSE GRAIN SHORTAGES AND PRICE LEVELS ARE AGGRAVATED BY A SCARCITY OF PLANTAIN AND STAPLE ROOT CROPS. FIRST REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE PRODUCTION OF EARLY PLANTED MAIZE IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS AND OF RICE IN THE NORTHERN REGIONS IS VARIABLE BUT NOT REPEAT NOT PROMISING. BECAUSE OF THIS GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY PREPARING A CONTINGENCY FOOD IMPORT PROGRAM FOR 1978. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO REQUESTED FAO TO SEND A PRELIMINARY FOOD SECURITY MISSION WHICH IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK FOR BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM PLANNING. THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE 1977 MAIZE AND RICE CROPS AND HENCE THE 1978 DOMESTIC SUPPLY POSITION IS DEPENDENT ON THE RAINS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. WE WILL HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE POSITION EARLY NEXT MONTH. THE ALLOCATION OF COMMERCIAL AND DONOR SUPPLIES IS BEING UNDERTAKEN NATIONALLY BY THREE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES WHICH HAVE COMMISSIONER OR SENIOR MILITARY CHAIRMEN AND WHICH WORK WITH THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS, THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION AND

DONORS. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALLOCATING AND DISTRIBUTING DONOR SUPPLIES WITHIN THE UPPER AND NORTHERN REGIONS RESTS WITH REGIONAL AND B STRICT FOOD COMMITTEES, REGIONAL COORDINATIONS AND THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS. THE FAO COUNTRY/REPRESENTATIVE IS ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND THE DONORS TO COORDINATE AID REQUESTS AND ARRIVALS WITH HARVEST PROSPECTS AND IMPORT NEEDS. THE DONORS ARE ALSO CLOSELY WATCHING THE DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR COMMODITIES. THIS CABLE IS BEING COPIED TO FAO AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (HALBERT UNDEVPRO, ACCRA). UNQUOTE. END OF TEXT.

3. COMMENT: OF THE TOTAL CY77 FOOD GRAIN IMPORTS WE ESTIMATE THAT 43,300 MT IS PROVIDED UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DONOR AID PROGRAMS. WE EXPECT TO HAVE FULL DETAILS OF GOG FOODGRAIN IMPORTS AT THE NEXT LOCAL DONORS MEETING IN LATE SEPTEMBER. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD SHORTAGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA06965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770329-0901
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770976/aaaacmdi.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 071f8648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1314587
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDP SUMMARY FOOD SITUATION REPORT
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, GH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/071f8648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009